

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a data processing system for marking particular types of communications, said method comprising the steps of:

5 establishing a database of a plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, wherein each of said plurality of identifiers identifies a particular type of communication; receiving a communication; determining if said communication includes one of said plurality of different identifiers; and

10 in response to a determination that said communication does include one of said plurality of different identifiers, marking said communication.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of forwarding said marked communication.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

15 receiving a communication within a server computer system intended to be received by a recipient's computer system; determining within a server computer system if said communication includes one of said plurality of different identifiers;

20 in response to a determination that said communication does include one of said plurality of different identifiers, marking, utilizing said server computer system, said communication; and

forwarding said marked communication from said server computer system to said recipient's client computer system.

4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a communication within a service bureau in a server computer system

5 intended to be received by a recipient's computer system;
determining within said service bureau in said server computer system if said communication includes one of said plurality of different identifiers;

10 in response to a determination that said communication does include one of said plurality of different identifiers, marking, utilizing said service bureau in said server computer system, said communication; and

forwarding said marked communication from said service bureau in said server computer system to said recipient's client computer system.

5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of compensating said service bureau.

15 6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, wherein each of said plurality of identifiers identifies an unwanted communication.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of deleting marked communications before said marked communications are forwarded to their intended 20 recipients.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
in response to a determination that said communication does not include one of
said plurality of different identifiers, forwarding said communication;
determining whether said communication was deleted without being opened;
5 in response to a determination that said communication was deleted without being
opened, determining an identifier included within said communication; and
storing said identifier as one of said plurality of identifiers in said database.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of publishing said
plurality of identifiers included within said database.

10 10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of subscribing to a
service that provides said plurality of identifiers.

11. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of forwarding said
communication to a special folder designated for receiving communication that are said
particular type.

15 12. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of notifying a
sender of said marked communication to discontinue communications to an intended
recipient of said marked communication.

13. The method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of blocking further
communications from said sender.

14. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, each one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a sender.

15. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a total number of times communications have been received from a sender who transmitted said marked communication.

16. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular text string.

17. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a number of intended recipients.

18. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular sender.

19. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular return address.

20. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular language.

21. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said 5 database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular Internet service provider source.

22. The method according to claim 1 wherein said communication comprises at least one of e-mail, instant messaging, XML messages, EDI messages, facsimiles, telephone communications, commercial messages, postal mail, packaging material, or digital 10 images.

23. The method according to claim 22, further comprising the step of determining if said communication is an unsolicited communication.

24. The method according to claim 1, wherein said communication comprises adult material.

15 25. The method according to claim 22, wherein said step of marking said communication further comprises the step of marking said communication utilizing at least one of: adding text to a subject line; sending a message or note to an e-mail application identifying a particular communication as possibly unwanted; embedding the suspected unwanted communication in another note; changing at least one attribute of a 20 portion of the communication text; changing the color of the subject line; changing

non-textual attributes of the communication; adding an icon; adding a symbol; positional marking; marking for investigation; forwarding to a third-party; or issuing a report.

26. The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of marking said communication further comprises the step of marking said communication utilizing at least one of: adding text to a subject line; sending a message or note to an e-mail application identifying a particular communication as possibly unwanted; embedding the suspected unwanted communication in another note; changing at least one attribute of a portion of the communication text; changing the color of the subject line; changing non-textual attributes of the communication; adding an icon; adding a symbol; positional marking; marking for investigation; forwarding to a third-party; or issuing a report.

27. A method in a data processing system for marking particular types of communications, said method comprising the steps of:
preparing an unsolicited communication;
marking said communication as being unsolicited; and
15 sending said communication.

28. A data processing system for marking particular types of communications, said system comprising:

a database of a plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, wherein each of said plurality of identifiers identifies a particular type of communication;
20 means for receiving a communication;
means for determining if said communication includes one of said plurality of different identifiers; and

in response to a determination that said communication does include one of said plurality of different identifiers, means for marking said communication.

29. The system according to claim 28, further comprising means for forwarding said marked communication.

5 30. The system according to claim 28, further comprising:

means for receiving a communication within a server computer system intended to be received by a recipient's computer system;

means for determining within a server computer system if said communication includes one of said plurality of different identifiers;

10 in response to a determination that said communication does include one of said plurality of different identifiers, means for marking, utilizing said server computer system, said communication; and

means for forwarding said marked communication from said server computer system to said recipient's client computer system.

15 31. The system according to claim 30, further comprising:

means for receiving a communication within a service bureau in a server computer system intended to be received by a recipient's computer system;

means for determining within said service bureau in said server computer system if said communication includes one of said plurality of different identifiers;

20 in response to a determination that said communication does include one of said plurality of different identifiers, means for marking, utilizing said service bureau in said server computer system, said communication; and

means for forwarding said marked communication from said service bureau in said server computer system to said recipient's client computer system.

32. The system according to claim 31, further comprising means for compensating said service bureau.

5 33. The system according to claim 28, further comprising of said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, wherein each of said plurality of identifiers identifies an unwanted communication.

34. The system according to claim 28, further comprising means for deleting marked communications before said marked communications are forwarded to their intended
10 recipients.

35. The system according to claim 28, further comprising:

in response to a determination that said communication does not include one of said plurality of different identifiers, means for forwarding said communication;

means for determining whether said communication was deleted without being
15 opened;

in response to a determination that said communication was deleted without being opened, means for determining an identifier included within said communication; and

means for storing said identifier as one of said plurality of identifiers in said database.

20 36. The system according to claim 28, further comprising means for publishing said plurality of identifiers included within said database.

37. The system according to claim 28, further comprising means for subscribing to a service that provides said plurality of identifiers.
38. The system according to claim 28, further comprising means for forwarding said communication to a special folder designated for receiving communication that are said 5 particular type.
39. The system according to claim 28, further comprising means for notifying a sender of said marked communication to discontinue communications to an intended recipient of said marked communication.
40. The system according to claim 39, further comprising means for blocking further 10 communications from said sender.
41. The system according to claim 28, further comprising means for establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, each one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a sender.
42. The system according to claim 28, further comprising means for establishing said 15 database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a total number of times communications have been received from a sender who transmitted said marked communication.
43. The system according to claim 28, further comprising means for establishing said 20 database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular text string.

44. The system according to claim 28, further comprising means for establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a number of intended recipients.

45. The system according to claim 28, further comprising establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular sender.

46. The system according to claim 28, further comprising establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular return address.

10 47. The system according to claim 28, further comprising establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular language.

48. The system according to claim 28, further comprising establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular Internet service provider source.

15 49. The system according to claim 28 wherein said communication comprises at least one of e-mail, instant messaging, XML messages, EDI messages, facsimiles, telephone communications, commercial messages, postal mail, packaging material, or digital images.

50. The system according to claim 49, further comprising means for determining if said communication is an unsolicited communication.

51. The system according to claim 28, wherein said communication comprises adult material.

5 52. The system according to claim 49, wherein said means for marking said communication further comprises means for marking said communication utilizing at least one of: adding text to a subject line; sending a message or note to an e-mail application identifying a particular communication as possibly unwanted; embedding the suspected unwanted communication in another note; changing at least one attribute of a portion of the communication text; changing the color of the subject line; changing non-textual attributes of the communication; adding an icon; adding a symbol; positional marking; marking for investigation; forwarding to a third-party; or issuing a report.

10 53. The system according to claim 28, wherein said means for marking said communication further comprises means for marking said communication utilizing at least one of: adding text to a subject line; sending a message or note to an e-mail application identifying a particular communication as possibly unwanted; embedding the suspected unwanted communication in another note; changing at least one attribute of a portion of the communication text; changing the color of the subject line; changing non-textual attributes of the communication; adding an icon; adding a symbol; positional marking; marking for investigation; forwarding to a third-party; or issuing a report.

15 54. A data processing system for marking particular types of communications comprising:

means for preparing an unsolicited communication;
means for marking said communication as being unsolicited; and
means for sending said communication.

55. A computer program product in a data processing system for marking particular
5 types of communications, said computer program product comprising:

instruction means for establishing a database of a plurality of different
distinguishing identifiers, wherein each of said plurality of identifiers identifies a
particular type of communication;

10 instruction means for receiving a communication;
instruction means for determining if said communication includes one of said
plurality of different identifiers; and

in response to a determination that said communication does include one of said
plurality of different identifiers, instruction means for marking said communication.

56. The product according to claim 55, further comprising instruction means for
15 forwarding said marked communication.

57. The product according to claim 55, further comprising:

instruction means for receiving a communication within a server computer system
intended to be received by a recipient's computer system;

20 instruction means for determining within a server computer system if said
communication includes one of said plurality of different identifiers;
in response to a determination that said communication does include one of said
plurality of different identifiers, instruction means for marking, utilizing said server
computer system, said communication; and

instruction means for forwarding said marked communication from said server computer system to said recipient's client computer system.

58. The product according to claim 57, further comprising:

instruction means for receiving a communication within a service bureau in a
5 server computer system intended to be received by a recipient's computer system;
instruction means for determining within said service bureau in said server computer system if said communication includes one of said plurality of different identifiers;
in response to a determination that said communication does include one of said 10 plurality of different identifiers, instruction means for marking, utilizing said service bureau in said server computer system, said communication; and
instruction means for forwarding said marked communication from said service bureau in said server computer system to said recipient's client computer system.

59. The product according to claim 58, further comprising instruction means for 15 compensating said service bureau.

60. The product according to claim 55, further comprising instruction means for establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, wherein each of said plurality of identifiers identifies an unwanted communication.

61. The product according to claim 55, further comprising instruction means for 20 deleting marked communications before said marked communications are forwarded to their intended recipients.

62. The product according to claim 55, further comprising:

in response to a determination that said communication does not include one of said plurality of different identifiers, instruction means for forwarding said communication;

5 instruction means for determining whether said communication was deleted without being opened;

in response to a determination that said communication was deleted without being opened, instruction means for determining an identifier included within said communication; and

10 instruction means for storing said identifier as one of said plurality of identifiers in said database.

63. The product according to claim 55, further comprising instruction means for publishing said plurality of identifiers included within said database.

64. The product according to claim 55, further comprising instruction means for 15 subscribing to a service that provides said plurality of identifiers.

65. The product according to claim 55, further comprising instruction means for forwarding said communication to a special folder designated for receiving communication that are said particular type.

66. The product according to claim 55, further comprising instruction means for 20 notifying a sender of said marked communication to discontinue communications to an intended recipient of said marked communication.

67. The product according to claim 66, further comprising instruction means for blocking further communications from said sender.

68. The product according to claim 55, further comprising instruction means for establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, each one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a sender.

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69. The product according to claim 55, further comprising instruction means for establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a total number of times communications have been received from a sender who transmitted said marked communication.

10 70. The product according to claim 55, further comprising instruction means for establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular text string.

71. The product according to claim 55, further comprising instruction means for establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a number of intended recipients.

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72. The product according to claim 55, further comprising instruction means for establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular sender.

73. The product according to claim 55, further comprising instruction means for establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular return address.

74. The product according to claim 55, further comprising instruction means for 5 establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular language.

75. The product according to claim 55, further comprising instruction means for establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular Internet service provider source.

10 76. The product according to claim 55, wherein said communication comprises at least one of e-mail, instant messaging, XML messages, EDI messages, facsimiles, telephone communications, commercial messages, postal mail, packaging material, or digital images.

15 77. The product according to claim 76, further comprising instruction means for determining if said communication is an unsolicited communication.

78. The product according to claim 55, wherein said communication comprises adult material.

79. The product according to claim 76, wherein said instruction means for marking said communication further comprises instruction means for marking said communication 20 utilizing at least one of: adding text to a subject line; sending a message or note to an

e-mail application identifying a particular communication as possibly unwanted; embedding the suspected unwanted communication in another note; changing at least one attribute of a portion of the communication text; changing the color of the subject line; changing non-textual attributes of the communication; adding an icon; adding a symbol;

5 positional marking; marking for investigation; forwarding to a third-party; or issuing a report.

80. The product according to claim 55, wherein said instruction means for marking said communication further comprises instruction means for marking said communication utilizing at least one of: adding text to a subject line; sending a message or note to an

10 e-mail application identifying a particular communication as possibly unwanted; embedding the suspected unwanted communication in another note; changing at least one attribute of a portion of the communication text; changing the color of the subject line; changing non-textual attributes of the communication; adding an icon; adding a symbol; positional marking; marking for investigation; forwarding to a third-party; or issuing a report.

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81. A computer program product in a data processing system for marking particular types of communications, said computer program product comprising:

instruction means for preparing an unsolicited communication;

instruction means for marking said communication as being unsolicited; and

20 instruction means for sending said communication.